

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 FREETO 00891 011315Z

43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 L-02 /061 W

----- 121964

R 011258Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1085

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 0891

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT SL

SUBJECT: TREASON TRIAL APPEAL VERDICT HANDED DOWN

REF: FREETOWN 2278, NOVEMBER 28, 1974

1. APPEALS COURT APRIL 30 REEAFIRMED CONVICTIONS AND DEATH SENTENCES OF 14 OUT OF 15 CIVILIAN DEFENDENTS IN TREASON TRIAL STEMMING FROM JULY 30, 1974, COUP ATTEMPT. CONVICTION AND SENTENCE OF ONE OF LESSER DEFENDENTS, ISSA JALLOH, SET ASIDE ON GROUNDS EVIDENCE PRESENTED WAS INSUFFICIENT TO PROVE GUILT.

2. FINAL OUTCOME OF AFFAIRS NOW BACK IN HANDS OF GOVERNMENT FOR POLITICAL DECISION WHETHER PROCEED WITH EXECUTIONS OR REDUCE SENTENCES AS ACT OF CLEMENCY. DECISION CONSIDERED UNLIKELY PRIOR PRESIDENT STEVENS' RETURN FROM COMMONWEALTH MEETING IN JAMAICA AND MAY BE DELAYED FOR SOME TIME. GOVERNMENT APPEARS STILL UNCERTAIN WHETHER PROCEED WITH THIRD TRIAL OF OTHERS STILL IN DETENTION WHO ALLEGED HAVE BEEN ON FRINGES OF PLOT, FORNWHICH TESTIMONY OF TREASON TRIAL DEFENDENTS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED USEFUL OR NECESSARY. IN ADDITION, PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TO WEIGH POLIEICAL COSTS OF PROCEEDING WITH EXECUTIONS WHICH COULD WELL STIR DISCONTENT OJ WORSE, PARTICULARLY IN TEMNE ARQAS, AS NEARLYSALL CIVILIAN DEFENDENTS ARE TEMNES. EXECUTIONS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 FREETO 00891 011315Z

HAVE NOT BEEN NORMAL PRACTICE IN SIERRA LEONE FOR PERSONS

FOUND GUILTY OF ATTEMPTING OVERTHROW GOVERNMENT (EXCEPTION
WAS EXECUTION OF FORMER FORCE COMMANDER BANGURA IN 1971),
AND PREDOMINANT PERSONAL ESTIMATE OF MOST OBSERVERS WITH
WHOM EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED MATTER IS THAT IN END EXECUTIONS
WILL NOT BE CARRIED OUT. STEVENS' FINAL DECISION, HOWEVER,
REMAINS TO BE LEARNED.
SAMUELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COURT DECISIONS, TREASON TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975FREETO00891
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750153-0480
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750587/aaaadbup.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 FREETOWN 2278, 75 NOVEMBER 28, 75 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TREASON TRIAL APPEAL VERDICT HANDED DOWN
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006